

Interview Questions:

Designing a Public Participation Process for the BLM Resource Management Planning Process

1. Before we discuss the type of public participation process that you would like to see, would you like to clarify your interests in managing the natural resources under BLM jurisdiction?
2. Do you have any comments or questions on the planning criteria or sideboards, which are enclosed?
3. What are the most important objectives of public participation in developing the BLM Resource Management Plan? Please rank the following possible objectives according to their importance to you (1 = most important, 2 = less important, or 3 = least important).
 - ___ Provide information and education.
 - ___ Seek public input and advice.
 - ___ Promote mutual understanding of the substantive issues.
 - ___ Increase the quality of the plan and final decisions.
 - ___ Foster trust, communication, and understanding among stakeholders, including the BLM.
 - ___ Resolve conflict among competing interests.
 - ___ Other. Please explain.

4. When is the most important time for the public to be involved in the planning process? Please rank the following steps according to their importance to you (1 = most important, 2 = less important, or 3 = least important).
 - ___ Define and validate the existing social, economic, and biophysical condition of the planning area.
 - ___ Identify issues and concerns.
 - ___ Develop alternatives.
 - ___ Evaluate alternatives.
 - ___ Analyze and incorporate public comments (i.e., weigh and balance competing interests, including local and national viewpoints).
 - ___ Select a preferred plan.
 - ___ Monitor and evaluate implementation.

____ Other. Please explain.

5. What type of information would be most helpful to you to effectively participate in the planning process? Why, and where would you suggest gathering such information?
- ____ status of natural resources conditions
____ economic trends
____ demographic trends
____ public land user trends
____ legal mandates
____ agency constraints
____ Other. Please explain.
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6. What type of information do you have to contribute to the planning process? How and when would you like to present that information?
7. What is the most useful way for the Bureau of Land Management to:
- A. Communicate information on existing conditions and trends?
 - B. Present alternatives?
 - C. Summarize public comments?
 - D. Explain how public comments are incorporated into the decision-making process?
 - E. Publish the final plan and environmental impact statement?
8. What other suggestions do you have to improve public participation in the Resource Management planning process?
9. How would you like to participate in the planning process?
10. Would you be willing to participate in a workshop to talk about a proposed public participation process based on the results of this research? If yes, what specifically would you like to see come out of the workshop?

